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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/779,282	02/08/2001	James D. Holker	PD-0436	7532
23608	7590	06/23/2003		
MEDTRONIC MINIMED INC. 18000 DEVONSHIRE STREET NORTHRIDGE, CA 91325-1219			EXAMINER	
			THISSELL, JEREMY	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3763		
DATE MAILED: 06/23/2003				

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/779,282	HOLKER ET AL
	Examiner Jeremy T. Thissell	Art Unit 3763

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13,89 and 90 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13,89 and 90 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 14-88 have been cancelled by applicant as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 8.

Applicant's pursuit of a smaller subset of claims drawn to sensor with a "necked down region" is acknowledges. All pending claims 1-13, 89, and 90 have been examined.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 1, after the word "wherein" there appears to be a word omitted, such as "the" or "a." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 89, and 90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson et al (US 5,165,407).

Wilson teaches a sensor with a necked down region (16) and mounting base (66). Wilson teaches that the thickness of the substrate is within the claimed range. At col. 7, line 21, Wilson teaches that the tube 34 has an inner diameter of 0.30 mm (300 microns) and an outer diameter of 0.67 mm (670 microns). Based on this sizing, the thickness of the substrate material on either side of the notch falls within the narrowest claimed range of 25-350 microns. Wilson also teaches that the sensor is made to fit within a 26 gauge needle which meets each of claims 6-9. (col. 4, line 7)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al in view of Lord et al (US 5,390,671).

Wilson teaches all the claimed subject matter except for a slotted needle and a base. Lord teaches these elements. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a slotted needle, as does Lord, in order to allow removal of the sensor from the needle and vice versa as taught by Lord.

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Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Schulman et al (US 6,256,937).

Wilson teaches all the claimed subject matter (including a reference electrode 18) except for electrodes on multiple surfaces of the substrate. Schulman teaches having electrodes on multiple surfaces. (col. 11, lines 5-9) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Wilson with electrodes on multiple sides to permit multiple sensing capabilities and ease of manufacture.

Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeremy T. Thissell whose telephone number is (703) 305-5261. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-7:00 Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached at (703) 308-3552. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

jt 
June 16, 2003


BRIAN L. CASLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700